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Title: Introduction and timetable

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Introduction and timetable

Scope of module

The problem of environmental assessment, which is addressed in this module, is much more about bringing together a very wide range of skills and approaches than investigating in depth from a single point of view. We have therefore adopted an empirical approach where you, the student, will start from a real problem and, under the supervision of a course team with a range of skills, will assemble a viable and holistic approach to its solution.

The site-oriented approach

At the core of the module will be a student-led investigation of an urban site. The site will be selected to include both environmental value and environmental hazard. It will be your task to recommend a course of investigation of the site to allow its assessment for sustainable development.

Course outline

Introduction to a site-oriented approach through case study examples

In this first part of the course, you will be presented with one or more examples of sites in the Katowice area. For example, there may be one site with nature conservation interest and one site with a serious contamination problem. For each site, an investigation proposal will have been prepared by the course team. You will visit the site(s) and discuss the proposal(s) with staff.

You may find it useful here to refer to the following sections in the Database:

- *Nature conservation case study: Murckowski Forest Small Reserve*
- *Hazard assessment case study: Wełnowiec zinc spoil heaps*
- *Evaluation for conservation*

Lecture programme

In this section you will be presented with a series of lectures. The lectures will provide an outline which will be supported by a series of technical documents assembled by the course team. These documents are in the second part of this manual. You can use these documents as a database.

The lecture programme will encompass the following broad topics:

- Environmental management for sustainability
- Methodology for site investigation
- Guidance on writing the module report

The field investigation

At this stage in the course your own investigation will be initiated with a visit to the selected principal investigation site. After visiting the site for

the first time you will be divided into small groups of 6—12 people, called “Investigation Teams” (see the course timetable). Each investigation team (IT) as a whole will be responsible for preparing the final report. The team will have to decide the extent to which its investigation is to be oriented towards hazard assessment and to what extent towards management for conservation. (Compare the two example investigations for *Murckowski Forest* and *Wetnowiec* *spoil tip*, also the two essays in the database entitled *Site investigation* and *Evaluating nature*.)

The team will plan what information needs to be collected, what investigations need to be carried out, and share out the work. It will discuss the preliminary reports in seminars. Each student will be responsible for preparing one distinct part or chapter of the final report. This might be the preparation of a plant list, the production of a vegetation map, the design of a questionnaire to use with local people, a soil or water sampling survey, etc.

Preparation of preliminary report

On the basis of the site visit(s) you will present a preliminary report.

Seminars

The preliminary reports will be discussed in seminars, possibly by means of formal presentations. This will provide the opportunity for further discussion, information, ideas and guidance. The course team will be present at these seminars.

Submission of final report

You will then prepare and submit a report which will consider alternative outcomes for the site and make a detailed proposal for the further investigation of the site based on a preliminary evaluation of the information available.

Module timetable

Table 1

Timetable for the module
 (total hours: 60; lectures: 15; seminars/field visit: 45)

Semester week number	Lectures	Seminars/Field visit
1	<p>1. Introduction to the module Structure of the module, aims and objectives of the course; predicted results; introduction to the module report Meeting with staff team 1h Read Manual Part 1 Course overview</p>	
2		<p>1 + 2. Field visits Visits to Murckowski Forest Reserve and Welnowiec spoil heap Students will be divided into two large groups; each of the groups will visit one of the sites. Students will be presented with the different aspects and environmental problems associated with the sites visited and proposals for their investigation and management. Students will be asked to prepare themselves to discuss their visit in the seminars in week 4. $2 \times 3h = 6h$</p>
3	<p>2. Environmental management for sustainability 2h</p>	
4	<p>3. Sustainability and the sustainable city 2h</p>	<p>3. Seminar Students will work in discussion groups (24 people) consisting of one group (12 people) which has visited the Murckowski Reserve and a second group (12) which has visited the Welnowiec site. Students will be asked to stage a presentation describing the environmental problems they had identified at the site visited, and then to discuss a plan for investigation and analysis. Members of staff will lead general discussion. $1 \times 3h$</p>

5		<p>4 + 5. Field visit Visit to the principal investigation site(s) Students will be provided with core environmental information and information about the environmental problems of the site. $2 \times 3h = 6h$</p>
6	<p>4. Methodology for site investigation — general introduction; description: collecting biotic data 2h</p>	
7	<p>5. Methodology for site investigation — description: collecting biotic data (flora and vegetation) 2h</p>	<p>6. Seminar Preliminary discussion ("brain storming") concerning what kind of data we need to collect, how to do this, where to go, etc. There will be the opportunity to question the staff. Students will be divided into Investigation Teams — IT (6–12 persons). Each IT will work on the structure of the investigation of the principal investigation site. Every member of the IT will be responsible for a selected part of the investigation and report. At the end of the course each IT will present their results as a final report (written) and a presentation (oral). $1 \times 3h$</p>
8	<p>6. Methodology for site investigation — collecting biotic data (fauna) 2h</p>	
9	<p>7. Evaluation and hazard assessment 2h</p>	<p>7 + 8 + 9. Further field visits to principal investigation site. Data collecting on site by each IT $3 \times 3h = 9h$</p>
10	<p>8. Writing the module report; examples of management plans achieved for sites in the Katowice region 2h</p>	<p>10. Seminar The student team will present its preliminary report. Further discussion with staff $1 \times 3h$</p>
11		<p>During these two weeks there will be opportunity for each IT to undertake further data collection or to consult with staff (individual and group work).</p>
12		
13		<p>11 + 12. Final report presentation Presentations will take part in front of other student ITs and the staff team. $2 \times 3h = 6h$</p>

14		13 + 14. Final report presentation — continued $2 \times 3\text{h} = 6\text{h}$
15		15. Completion of the final reports. Assessment of the results. Final discussion $1 \times 3\text{h}$
Total hours	15h	45h